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## Pilot Flying Arms to Contras Had Account at a Swiss Bank

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ZURICH, Nov. 28 — The co-pilot of a plane shot down last month while carrying arms to Nicaraguan rebels had a Swiss bank account. But the bank said today that the account had nothing to do with recent Iran arms shipments.

The Union Bank of Switzerland said Jean Paul Cuche, whose name appeared on a business card, together with an account number, in the plane's wreckage, was an assistant-vice president at its Cornavin branch in Geneva.

Responding to reports that the account may have figured in the Iran weapons deal, the bank said an investigation by its security division showed "no connection with the transactions of Iran and the United States."

Swiss banks have drawn much attention since the disclosure that as much as \$30 million from Iran arms sales diverted to the Nicaraguan rebels passed through Swiss accounts.

### Awkward for the Swiss

The Iran deal is unusually awkward for Switzerland, because of the use of Swiss bank accounts for the money-laundering part of the operation and because Switzerland has represented American interests in Teheran since the hostage crisis.

There is also evidence that Caribbean subsidiaries of Geneva-based companies were used for the secret purchase of aircraft for the Nicaraguan rebels, also known as contras.

The second-ranking Swiss Foreign Ministry officer, Edouard Brunner, discussed the secret weapons deal in talks with Secretary of State George P. Shultz in Washington last week. Later he denied that Switzerland knew in advance.

Jörg Kistler, a Justice Ministry spokesman in Bern, said the Government had begun investigating a Swiss link, and had not been asked by Washington to do so.

Union Bank shielded Mr. Cuche from reporters today, and telephone calls to his home were not answered.

### Account Opened in 1981

Bank investigators evidently learned that Mr. Cuche, then the bank's cashier, opened an account in 1981 in the name of Wallace B. Sawyer, the name of the co-pilot in the crash of the C-123 transport plane Oct. 5. The account appears not to have been used since 1984.

Mr. Sawyer was killed in the plane crash; the sole survivor was Eugene Hasenfus, who has been imprisoned in Nicaragua.

Mr. Sawyer was a longtime pilot who worked for Southern Air Transport

until switching to Corporate Air Services, the apparent front for the air supplies to the contras.

Southern Air Transport was once owned by the Central Intelligence Agency and has more recently been used for clandestine flights to Central America.

Union Bank said its investigation had yielded no apparent link with the C.I.A.

Nicaragua has figured in domestic Swiss politics of late, both because of the presence of many Swiss volunteer social workers in the Central American country and because of controversy here over an unsuccessful effort by the anti-Sandinista rebels to set up a quasi-diplomatic link to United Nations organizations based in Geneva.

The effort, which was undertaken by a former Nicaraguan diplomat who defected and joined the political wing of the rebel Nicaraguan Democratic Force, Jaime Pasquier, had the broad backing of American diplomats in Switzerland and local conservative political leaders.

To finance much of this activity, the contras and their Swiss backers appear to have bank accounts in Switzerland, but it remains unclear whether the accounts played any role in the Iran deal.

Mr. Pasquier is said to have been sent to Geneva by Managua about 1980 as head of the Nicaraguan mission there.

### Defected and Fled to U.S.

Two years later he defected and fled to the United States. He joined contra leaders in Florida who prevailed on him to return to Switzerland to represent the rebels in Geneva.

His efforts are said to have faltered on the resistance of local groupings, such as the Socialist Party, who parlayed events like the killing of two Swiss volunteers by rebels this year into popular opposition to the contra presence here.

Mr. Pasquier is said to have left Switzerland for Costa Rica last month. One of his Swiss supporters, a Zurich businessman named Alexander Eugster, continues to promote the contra cause through an obscure group known as the Association for a Democratic Nicaragua.

Mr. Eugster, who in a telephone conversation described himself as an acquaintance of Adolfo Calero, a Nicaraguan rebel leader, cooperates occasionally with Peter Sager, a Member of Parliament from the Swiss People's Party, a conservative agrarian grouping.

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